



European Union

**Explanation of Position on the Occasion
of the 63rd session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Vienna, 2–6 March 2020**

Agenda item 5.(a): Changes in the scope of control of substances

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The following countries align themselves with this statement:

We would like to thank you, Mr. Chair, for the efforts you have put into this demanding process for finding a common ground between Member States.

We were ready to vote today upon most of the WHO recommendations. We regret that a majority of countries was not. Therefore, in order to provide the Member States concerned with additional time to finalise their respective assessments based on facts and evidence, we did not oppose the postponement of the vote until the reconvened session of the 63rd CND.

We are ready to continue the discussions during the coming intersessional meetings in order to prepare for a vote in December this year. At that moment, we have to assume our responsibilities and act to preserve the integrity and credibility of the international scheduling system.

Mr. Chair, we trust that with your leadership and guidance, we all will be ready to vote as mandated by the International Drug Control Conventions.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.